

**City of Bloomington  
Telecommunications Council  
Business Meeting – September 6, 2011**

**Common Council Chambers  
City Hall at the Showers Building  
401 N. Morton St.**

**I. Members Present:** Carl Zager, Suzann Owen, Eric Ost, Duane Busick

**II. Public Comment**

**Lennon Beasley**

\* has produced 1,510 programs in the last seven years, and he has no signs of slowing down.

\*In the last month, he has done 4 new Rehearsal Fun Shows, 2 Drum Live shows, 1 New Beginnings, 1 Rock Around the Clock, 9 Singing Studio's, and 1 Wipe-Out.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

**Carl Zager** motioned that the minutes from the August meeting be approved. **Suzann Owen** seconded the motion.

**Duane** - mentioned a typo in Suzann's first paragraph "government until is not delivery", it should be delivering.

**Suzann** - mentioned that there were several minor things like wrong words tense, but things you can figure out because it doesn't change the meaning. (Example: do/due)

**Eric** – I asked Matt about getting the minutes in a Goggle document format, or some format that can be edited. It would facilitate the correction process.

Question called with corrections – All approved.

**Suzann** – I would like to request that they be sent to us in word form. So, they can be edited on screen, in goggle documents, or a comparable program that all can access and make changes too.

**Eric** – Goggle documents is preferred.

**Suzann** motioned that the Telecommunications minutes be provided to the council in a Goggle documents. Carl seconded the motion. Questioned called, all approved.

**IV. Reports and Announcements**

**1. Telecom Members**

**Eric** – We do not have the second quarter report of the franchise fees, which should have been received by the city no later than July 15<sup>th</sup>. I will follow up and get that report.

**Suzann** – Over several meetings, we've discussed the viewing patterns of consumers. The concern is that the revenue that comes into the government unit is dependent on subscriptions to video service providers. If someone is using the internet as opposed to the internet enable systems like AT&T. We don't get the revenue. If it gets excessive, it could put into jeopardy the revenue coming into the city. "1/4 of people in counties with access to high-speed broadband are streaming video for their TV. Although, more than 80% still watch broadcast TV." Survey information from Erickson, states there has been a slight decrease from 2010 to 2011, in the percentage of folks watching broadcast TV, while internet enable options, long form streaming site's like; Netflix's, short-term video aggregators like U-Tube, and downloadable content are all on the rise. Much like the print media, content owners, TV distributors, and broadcasters will have to find ways to give consumer content in the format they want, engaging with the audience, while still making money. People aren't going to cut cable completely.

**Duane** – People have really discovered that getting video service thru a video service provider or thru broadcast television is so much easier and better, then the stream they experience from the internet.

**Carl** – Since our primary focus on the council deals with the PEG channels as well as the continuation of revenue stream. If internet streaming options become more attractive and comfortable for people, it will mean a reduction in the revenue stream to the community.

**Eric** – We are seeing developing trends that might accelerate due to different reasons, whether its changes in market technology or legislation, or a combination. We should try to partner with other interested parties and figure out an appropriate direction to move. I'd like to see this council take a leadership role in doing that.

**Duane** – No report.

**Insert of Public Comment**

**Iris Kiesling – Monroe County Commissioner**

One of my comments to AT & T has been that I think they are dis-enfranchising many people from their government because they do not provide PEG channels. Another thing, many folks aren't subscribing to anything. They don't even go online. They either get it over the air or they aren't interested in what's going on. I would love discussing a partnership with you.

**Carl** – Many years ago, this community received a grant from the State of Indiana to develop a community network for computers. It was probably the most successful network in the state. This community can support this type of network system. I would like to think some of the players in the Hoosier Net experiment might be interested in looking at a video experiment for the community.

**Duane** - We need to be prepared as a community for the communication needs of Bloomington, and Monroe County. This body should be taking the lead trying to figure out what the path might be.

**Eric** – I agree with everything said. As far as the experiment that Carl mentioned, the experiment could be broader than just video, but could include broadband too. I think everything falls back to a packetized delivery system, which is broadband.

**Duane** – It should also include a community wide WI-FI.

## **2. CATS - Michael White**

- Thank you to the County Commissioners for signing funding contract.

- Monthly programming

- Also included in the packet are the notes from the funding partners meeting that Sarah Laughlin put together.

**Eric** – We need to read thru these notes, but may have question at next month's meeting. I would hope in the future the Telecommunications Council could be party to these discussions. The funding partners need to be recommended for their generous support of the PEG access throughout the years.

**Carl** – Motioned that the notes from the CATS funding partners meeting be included in the minutes of the Telecommunications meeting for September. Duane seconded the motion. All approved.

## **3. WTIU – Phil Meyers**

\*Congrats to Lennon Beasley on winning the "Stone Belt Consumer Excellence Award" last month at the annual meeting.

\*Congrats to Michael White for his role in Wilderness plots. He's been on WTIU a lot lately.

\*Mentioned the production of the adult spelling bee.

\*Program notes sent.

\* Highlights: \* 9/11 Commissioners will be speaking at IU auditorium. It will be carried live on WTIU – World, the taped played in primetime on WTIU-HD the same night.

\*We are trying to use this pattern with programs, that we can tape live; like the State of the University address later in September.

\*We are working on the State Superintendent of Instruction, State of Education address will air on WTIU-World because it will actually be produced by WYFI in Indianapolis, by FPT server delivered to us. We will then add some analysis from the new department to that.

\*World-front weekly special, weekly magazine format show, begins airing state wide thru the Indiana channel, on the digital stations (8 PBS stations) throughout the state.

\*The FYI production "Across Indiana" is not producing new episodes. So, we are providing a new episode each week for the Indiana channel. We hope eventually to have that carried on the main channel of the other stations.

\*We will continue to provide quarterly updates.

\* We will be having a meeting with the IU Police Department to discuss a campus cable interrupt for emergencies. We are working on getting all parties involved together to cooperate in order to provide the interrupt service. This service will begin with the Bloomington campus, then branch out to the other campus's in the future.

\*We will begin high school sports with the North/South football game. It will appear on the 3 multi-cast family channels and the main channel 30.1.

**Carl** – The video interrupt on campus will be a good support for the text messaging system that campus put into place a few years ago. Also, many may not realize that WTIU -2 does not receive any franchise funding. The primary support for WTIU is its placement as a PEG channel, and that placement we thought was a lot more valuable than it turned out to be. Because we expected that it would be guaranteed a place due to the 2006 legislation but it's not! It doesn't appear on all the video service providers. I think we would be remised to exclude WTIU from the funding discussion. They deserve a seat at whatever table we put together, to help develop a plan for alternative funding.

**Eric** – I would agree. I think the resource you are indicating is valuable but we don't have legislative control on enforcing the law.

**V. Information from or about Video Service Provider – None**

**VI. New Business – None**

**Old Business**

**Suzann** – Mentioned Mr. Byron Smith attending the August meeting, he is a vision impaired person who cannot access the PEG channels. The system is not user friendly. He notified us that he had gotten immediate response from AT & T about the situation. After our meeting, AT &T asked whether a voice enabled control system would be helpful for him to use. He responded yes, and they are supposed to be providing him with that. We may want to ask him to come back with a report.

**VII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Eric that the meeting be adjourned.

**Next Regular Meeting**

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Common Council Chambers in City Hall at the Showers Building  
401 N. Morton St.

Submitted by:  
Stephanie Jachim 9-18-2011